

Application No.: 09/837,902

11

Docket No.: 495152000110

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on May 20, 2005, claims 110, 116-119, 139, 143-148, and 157-159 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 110, 113, 120, 123, 124, 139, 140, 147, 149, 157 have been amended. Applicant requests entry of the present Amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 110, 116-119, 139, 143-148, and 157-159 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese patent publication 4-311591 (the Hirohiko reference). Independent claims 110, 139, 157 have been amended to clarify that the film on the second portion of the substrate surface is plated to the desired thickness after plating the film on the first portion of the substrate surface. Applicant asserts that the Hirohiko reference does not disclose or suggest this claim limitation.

In particular, the Abstract of the Hirohiko reference discloses that the plating solution supplied from each of the columnary space 112 and the cylindrical space 123 is regulated to increase from the inside towards the outside of the inner vessel 12. Thus, the film in the Hirohiko reference is plated across the entire surface of the wafer at one time. The Hirohiko reference also does not disclose a motivation to modify this pattern to plate one portion of the surface after plating another portion.

Thus, Applicant asserts that independent claims 110, 139, 157 are allowable over the Hirohiko reference. Applicant also asserts that dependent claims, 116-119, 143-148, and 158-159 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims. Applicant further requests rejoinder of the withdrawn dependent claims.

In view of the above, claims 110-159 are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

sf-1940571

Application No.: 09/837,902

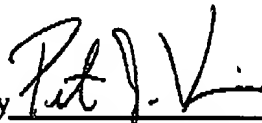
12

Docket No.: 495152000110

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 495152000110. The Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Peter J. Yim, Reg. No. 44,417
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
425 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 268-6373

sf-1940571